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## Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a first network device in a communication network, comprising:
  - selecting at least one subsets of a plurality of standardized network equipment configuration parameters, each subset comprising a plurality of individual configuration parameters that may be enabled and disabled together;
  - representing each selected at least one subset by a value of an associated grouping variable (a switch);
  - saving each value associated with each grouping variable into a configuration file on a server, each value representing each selected at least one subsets, thereby creating a configuration file that governs switches executed by the first network device to switch on and/or off the at least one subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters according to each values representing the at least one subset without including the plurality of individual configuration parameters contained in each selected subset the values associated with the grouping variables;
  - loading the configuration file from the server to the first network device; and
  - setting software switches within the first network device according to at least one of the grouping variable values in the configuration file, thereby switching on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters within the first network device according to at least one of the group representative values in the configuration file.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one subset is selected with a user interface.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the user interface is a computing device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal computer.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the computing device is a personal digital assistant.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the server is a trivial file transfer protocol server.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first network device is an embedded MTA.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication features facilitate communication between the first network device and a second network device.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a cable modem termination system.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable provisioning server.
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a media gateway.
12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the second network device is a PacketCable call management server.
13. (Previously Presented) A system for configuring a ~~first network device~~ customer equipment in a communication network, comprising:

the customer equipment comprising an operating software load embedded in a machine-readable media;  
the operating software load comprising switch settings each controlling a predetermined group of device settings for compatible operation between the customer equipment and equipment of the communication network;  
each switch turning a predetermined group of device settings on or off, each predetermined group comprising a plurality of settings which either are or are not implemented by a particular type of the equipment of the communication network;  
a configuration server device to adapt a configuration file with settings for the switches of operating software load of the customer equipment; and  
the operating software load adapted to apply the settings of the switches in the configuration file to set the switches of the operating software load on or off, thus enabling or disabling entire groups of settings of the customer equipment for each switch setting of the configuration file.

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~~means for setting each of at least one communication parameter variables to a value representing at least one subset of a plurality of standardized network equipment configuration parameters, each value of the at least one communication parameter variable representing a plurality of individual configuration parameters;~~  
~~means for saving each of the representative values to a configuration file without including in the configuration file the plurality of individual configuration parameters contained in the at least one subset, thereby creating a configuration file that governs switches executed by the first network device to switch on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters according to each of the representative values;~~  
~~means for loading the configuration file to the first network device; and~~  
~~means for setting software switches within the first network device according to the representative values in the configuration file, thereby switching on and/or off subsets of standardized network equipment configuration parameters within the network device according to the representative values in the configuration file.~~

14. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 wherein **the switches of the operating software load control groups of TLV values that determine content of messages between the customer equipment and the equipment of the communication network.** the software switches are TLV variables that determine the data to be included in a communication message between the first network device and a second network device.

18. (Cancelled)

19.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first network device performs a selected provisioning method responsive to at least one of the values in the configuration file.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the first network device comprises logic configured to provision the first network device responsive to at least one of the representative values in the configuration file.

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28. (New) A cable modem comprising:

- an operating software load embedded in a machine-readable media;
- the operating software load adapted with switch settings each controlling a predetermined group of device settings for compatible operation between the customer equipment and equipment of the communication network;
- each switch turning a predetermined group of device settings on or off, each predetermined group comprising a plurality of settings which either are or are not implemented by a particular type of the equipment of the communication network;
- a communication interface adapted to receive data in the form of a configuration file with settings for the switches of the operating software load; and
- the operating software load adapted to apply the settings of the switches in the configuration file to set the switches of the operating software load on or off, thus enabling or disabling entire groups of settings of the cable modem for each switch setting of the configuration file.

29. (New) The cable modem of claim 28 wherein the switches of the operating software load control groups of TLV values that determine content of messages between the cable modem and the equipment of the communication network.